

Kaleidoscope Trust

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2014 – 2015**

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## FROM THE CHAIR

2014-15 was a year of hope and setbacks for LGBT rights. On the one hand the United States joined 19 other countries in recognising marriage as a legal right. There was also progress on LGBT rights in Latin America, including a new gender identity law in Argentina and a new civil union law in Chile. In May 2015, Ireland became the first country to legalise same-sex marriage on a national level by popular vote. These changes have been brought about by the hard work over many years of LGBT civil society organisations, activists and their supporters.

But on the other hand, the global campaign for the rights of sexual minorities experienced setbacks in several regions including Russia and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. It is a sobering thought that almost 2.8 billion people still live in countries which criminalise gay people and impose severe punishments on homosexuality, such as imprisonment, lashings and even death sentences.

For Kaleidoscope Trust, keeping sight of the larger picture and being able to balance the setbacks with the improvements in the lives of LGBT people worldwide has become all the more essential as we move forward, better equipped to be a catalyst for change and a source of support for LGBT people, activists and civil society internationally.

2014-15 also saw Kaleidoscope Trust grow into a much stronger organisation, which smoothly managed the transition from Lance Price's departure in August 2014 as executive director to Alistair Stewart's stewardship as acting director for nine months and to Felicity Daly taking up the mantle in May 2015. During this period, the board of trustees also grew from strength to strength with the addition of new members and with all playing our part to serve Kaleidoscope Trust and its staff. As my term as Chair comes to an end I am confident that Kaleidoscope Trust will continue to have an important role in the global movement to fight intolerance and to make the world a better place for LGBT people.

Siddo Deva

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is a privilege to lead the Kaleidoscope Trust during a crucial time to support human rights defenders challenging discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the face of opposition. I bring over 15 years' experience working on international development within non-governmental organisations and consulting for academia, bilateral donors and UN agencies.

Since joining in May I have been impressed with the strong support the Trust has built. I seek to put us in a position to fulfil our mission: to listen to the voices of LGBT people whose human rights are threatened by discrimination; amplify their messages and draw on their expertise to persuade public and political opinion to work as a catalyst for meaningful change.

My own research on health disparities faced by lesbian and bisexual women in Southern Africa reveals severe impacts of rising homophobic violence and failure to meet the needs and respect the rights of LGBT people. Thus I am passionate about supporting advocates to persuade governments that access to healthcare, education and employment for their LGBT citizens is not just their human right but also in the national interest of their countries.

I am excited to take this growing organisation in new directions and consolidate its many successes, especially building the capacity of LGBT rights defenders to campaign, communicate and engage with opinion formers and policy makers. As governments around the world adopt the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals which intend to 'Leave No One Behind' the Trust will do its best to ensure that LGBT people are included and that exclusion is challenged.

Felicity Daly, DrPH

## OUR TEAM

During 2014-2015, the Kaleidoscope Trust continued to professionalise as a well-established and recognised civil society organisation and a leading voice on the human rights of LGBT people in countries where they lack their equal rights. We are governed by a Board of Trustees and supported by a team of dedicated volunteers and staff, including Alistair Stewart Programme Manager, as well as consultants.

# BUILDING EFFECTIVE LGBT MOVEMENTS

A sustainable, long-term shift in public opinion toward LGBT people and respect for their human rights can only ever be successfully implemented from within a country. To that end our in-country projects revolve around building the capacity of partner organisations so they can be more effective in bringing about changes for LGBT people. This work utilises a range of channels and mechanisms including: new and traditional media, campaigning and advocacy.

## **Caribbean – Generation Change**

As was reported in the last Annual Report the Kaleidoscope Trust was implementing this project funded by the Eastern Caribbean group of British High Commissions to encourage public and political opinion to support progress towards the repeal of legislation that discriminates against LGBT citizens and enable the voice of LGBT people to be heard by Caribbean governments and within the Commonwealth.

On June 7 2014 in Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago the project launched a new regional coalition of youth organisations - Generation Change. The launch event featured speeches, films and other testimony from the region. With contributions from Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago Generation Change was widely embraced as a major new platform to support campaigning to end criminalisation of homosexuality and discrimination against LGBT people in the region. Kaleidoscope Trust's engagement helped to solicit commitments to reform from two prime ministers and generated considerable interest from local, regional and international media, a major advance which benefitted many of the participating organisations for their ongoing advocacy.

[Box Out]

*“The design of the initiative . . . was an excellent way to engender new leadership in Caribbean LGBT Activism. It gave individuals who do not have years of experience in advocacy/activism an opportunity to make decisions on what initiatives would be most successful and have an impact and allowed them to understand and partake in prioritizing project ideas and budgeting.”*

*J Nelson project participant*

[End]

## **Malawi**

We supported the Centre for Development of People, in Malawi to produce a radio documentary highlighting the challenges faced by the LGBT community there in the face of criminalisation and hostility. Aired during the close-run Malawian general election in 2014, the documentary formed a key piece of advocacy bringing visibility to the lack of human rights of LGBT people

### **Building partnerships**

Throughout the year we continued to meet with activists from - Belarus, Jamaica, Russia, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda amongst others. We have learned more about their experiences in organising and the challenges they face and have endeavoured to support their efforts including by raising visibility among UK and Commonwealth policy makers.

With the support of the Network for Social Change, the new Executive Director conducted an internal review of the Trust’s past capacity building, communications and media training efforts in-country and a partner survey with the view toward expanding this essential work and building on our track record. We have used the information gleaned from this to develop our insights into how to ensure that future projects have greater impact and work toward more sustainable partnerships.

# MOBILISING LEADERSHIP

The Kaleidoscope Trust carried out targeted advocacy throughout the year, utilising our established relationships with a network of UK parliamentarians and officials in the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and within Commonwealth institutions.

Our advocacy aims to spread awareness among these policy-makers about the situation of LGBT people in countries where they lack their equal rights, particularly in Commonwealth member states. We urged them to use their power, influence and voice in support of the human rights of LGBT people and, by generating debate and discussion effect real change in LGBT communities.

We speak out loud when we need to. But we also work behind the scenes, looking to persuade governments that access to healthcare, education and employment for their LGBT citizens is not just their human right but also in the national interest of the countries.

## **UK Government**

The Trust has continued to advise Ministers and officials in the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that the United Kingdom does all it can to support the global struggle against discrimination and criminalisation based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

We have particularly welcomed DFID's new approach to pursuing LGBT rights within international development interventions and have worked with DFID to help inform the implementation of this approach.

## **UK Parliament**

Through the Parliamentary Friends of the Kaleidoscope Trust, which was chaired by Crispin Blunt MP, we held regular briefings with Parliamentarians. Through these efforts we helped to explain and frame the issues effecting LGBT people

abroad and apprise UK Parliamentarians of developments in LGBT rights movements in countries where they lack their equal rights.

### **Party conferences**

The Trust co-hosted a panel discussion at the **Conservative Party annual conference** 2014 in collaboration with *LGBTory* the Conservative LGBT group. The speakers included MPs Margot James, Nick Herbert and Stuart Andrews. The event was well-attended and focused on what the next Government's agenda for international LGBT rights should be.

We also co-hosted a discussion at the **Labour Party annual conference** 2014, with LGBT Labour to consider what the next Government must do to help LGBT globally. Several members of the shadow cabinet, including Jim Murphy, then Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, attended the event.

### **Commonwealth Institutions**

During the year we coordinated a successful series of **round-table discussions** with High Commissioners to the UK, drawn from both criminalising and non-criminalising Commonwealth member states. Run in conjunction with the Royal Commonwealth Society, these discussions provided a discreet space to discuss LGBT issues among peers. They provided participants a place to listen, learn and share the challenges they face in advancing options to advance for the human rights of LGBT people and support their access to basic services, including health and education, in their respective countries.

In July 2014 we held a full day conference on *LGBTI Human Rights in the Commonwealth* at the University of Glasgow in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games, in partnership with the University, the Equality Network and Pride Glasgow. The conference provided a focused space for LGBTI human rights discussions, to share ideas and campaigning practices, among speakers and participants from across the Commonwealth.

Participants in the conference produced a joint declaration on LGBTI rights, calling upon Commonwealth institutions and member states to improve the human rights of LGBTI people. We then joined our partner organisations and activists to deliver a petition to the Commonwealth Secretary-General calling on Commonwealth institutions and member states to take action to promote and protect the human rights of LGBTI people. The petition, signed by 2,500 people, was collected during the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth

Secretary-General's response affirmed that equality and non-discrimination are important tenets of the Commonwealth Charter and outlined ongoing work to build the capacity of national human rights institutions and parliaments to protect and promote these values.

In March 2015 we launched an innovative report in collaboration with The Royal Commonwealth Society considering the challenges faced by LGBT people in the Commonwealth. **Collaboration and Consensus – building a constructive Commonwealth approach to LGBT rights**, was the first in a series of papers considering how the human rights of LGBT people can be addressed within the Commonwealth context. It examined some of the ways in which Commonwealth institutions, member states and civil society can use mechanisms of the Commonwealth to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Trust founded the Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) in 2013 to provide a dedicated platform for promoting the human rights of LGBTI people in Commonwealth member states and Commonwealth institutions. TCEN is a Commonwealth-wide network of non-governmental organisations interested in upholding the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people which currently has 35 member organisations, drawn from 30 countries, with representation in each of the five Commonwealth regions.

Throughout the year we actively engaged in the Network and served as Treasurer on its management committee. During the Commonwealth Games the Trust and TCEN produced an exhibition highlighting the challenges facing LGBTI people across the Commonwealth which was hosted at Glasgow Pride House before travelling to communities across Scotland.

TCEN has endeavoured to become an accredited Commonwealth civil society organisation to provide formal recognition and facilitate access to various Commonwealth processes. If TCEN is successful in accreditation it would demonstrate institutional recognition that the promotion of the human rights of LGBTI people is consistent with the values and principles set out in the Commonwealth Charter. Starting early in 2015 the Kaleidoscope Trust's Commonwealth facing advocacy focused on planning, in close collaboration with TCEN members and other partner organisations, to raise LGBT visibility at the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)** in November 2015.

# RAISING VISIBILITY

Although local battles for equal rights can only be successfully waged in country, activists at the forefront need the support of LGBT communities and their allies around the world. To that end we are committed to raising awareness of the challenges faced by LGBT people in countries where they lack their equal rights in order to mobilise the UK public to effectively support both the activists and organisations on the ground and the Trust's work. We are passionate about working with others and learning from their expertise to understand the challenges facing LGBT people and develop innovative ways to meet those challenges.

## **Annual lectures**

In 2014 we continued our successful lecture series in partnership with our corporate supporters, JP Morgan and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Our lectures were attended by activists, supporters, policy-makers, researchers and media.

In May 2014, to mark the **International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia**, the Trust hosted a lecture by Maurice Tomlinson, Legal Advisor on Marginalised Groups for AIDS Free World. Maurice has been engaged in HIV/AIDS and LGBT activism in the Caribbean for over 14 years. He is at the forefront of the campaign to decriminalise homosexuality, leading legal challenges across the region to have discriminatory laws repealed. Maurice reflected on progress and challenges in this courageous work in a compelling lecture available to view on the Kaleidoscope Trust You Tube channel.

The Annual **Human Rights Day** Lecture in December 2014 was delivered by Matthew Barzun, United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom. The Ambassador reiterated the U.S. Government's strong commitment to advance the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons around the world. He emphasized the power of symbols and words in bringing about change around the world.

[Box Out]

“We need to be visible. It's hard to be visible because it comes with a cost, but we need to be visible. People fear what they don't know.” Maurice Tomlinson, IDAHOT Lecture

[End]

In 2014 The Trust worked with the team organising **Brighton Pride**, the UK's biggest LGBT pride festival, to support their campaign #FreedomToLove. We launched a successful viral campaign highlighting the almost 80 countries where LGBT people face criminalisation. Images from the campaign were shared more than a 100,000 times on Facebook and twitter.

In July 2014 we partnered with the **Overseas Development Institute (ODI)**, to host the first event of its kind at ODI posing the question *can aid donors help support LGBT rights in developing countries?* This well attended public event set out to explore how development aid donors and implementers might best react to anti-LGBT legislation and what roles and approaches should be pursued to promote and protect the human rights of LGBT people. The event brought together experts and representatives of bilateral and multilateral aid donors, including NORAD, USAID and the World Bank, as well as researchers and practitioners pioneering work in this field. The outcomes were followed up by an expert group meeting hosted by ODI and the Trust in February 2015 to further explore various approaches and efforts to build the evidence base donors can rely on to make decisions and allocate funds to interventions for LGBT people.

In September 2014 the Trust co-hosted a seminar at **Europe House** on *Exploring the Efficacy of Advocacy: Options to Highlight the Persecution of the LGBTI Community Across the Globe*. The seminar gathered together representatives from civil society, governments and inter-governmental organisations to consider the role of advocacy in diplomacy, politics, culture and litigation and how change may be brought about.

In January 2015 we partnered with **University College London Institute of Education** to hold a conference on *tackling sexuality related violence through education in low and middle income countries*. The conference brought together students, advocates, educationalists, researchers and those involved in programme and policy development, including UNESCO and the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organisation, to share ideas about promising practice to address bullying and violence related

to sexual orientation and gender identity in educational settings in low and middle income countries.

### **Media**

Throughout the year we received extensive coverage in the media, allowing us to comment and participate in public debate on LGBT rights in the international sphere. During the year we appeared in the Guardian, PinkNews, Gay Star News, QX Magazine, the Independent, Responsible Investor and the Huffington Post. Our work also generated debate in many other publications, such as inspiring the Economist's October 2014 cover story on global LGBT rights which was informed by our collaboration with ODI.

### **Awards**

We were nominated for Community Group of the Year at the PinkNews Awards, Charity of the Year at the Ultimate Planet Awards and Charity/ Community Initiative of the Year at the British LGBT Awards.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

The Trust is funded through major gifts from individuals and corporations, small gifts from online donations and fund-raising events as well as by grants awarded by trusts and foundations.

Over the year the Trust expanded its challenge events fundraising, working with dozens of supporters through Virgin Giving and Just Giving platforms. Many of our supporters, in teams or individually, participated in sporting events to raise money for the Trust, including Pride Run 10k. We also worked with the L-Project, an awareness raising organisation focused on anti LGBT bullying, on a charity single which raised funds for the Trust.

In January 2015 we held our annual **Gala Dinner** and charity auction at Café de Paris in London. The event enjoyed the generous support of Burberry, Café de Paris, Square Peg Media and Pink News. In addition to performances the audience heard from Jason Jones, founder and Director of *I Am One* in Trinidad and Tobago, who gave a moving address calling for greater support of global LGBT work.

Our corporate supporters include CSC PRIDE, JP Morgan and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. We were awarded a three year grant towards core funding from the Esmé Fairbairn Foundation in memory of Paul Cottingham and the contribution he made to the Kaleidoscope Trust. We were awarded a grant from The Network for Social Change towards reviewing our past in-country projects to reflect on the lessons we learned about supporting the building of effective LGBT movements in countries where LGBT people lack their equal rights.